



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Tennessee Regulatory Authority

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### **Tate Appointed to Federal Communications Commission Joint Conference**

**Nashville, Tennessee** – Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA) Chairman Deborah Taylor Tate has been appointed to the Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Telecommunications Services by Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Michael Powell.

The Joint Conference is a group of State and federal regulators dedicated to forwarding the deployment of advanced telecommunications services to American consumers as outlined in Section 706 of the 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act.

“As a relatively new commissioner, I am honored by this appointment and consider it a privilege to work with the FCC on this very critical committee of vital importance to the domestic economy, as well as the global telecommunications market,” said Chairman Tate.

Section 706 of the Federal Act sets forth the obligations state and federal regulators must shoulder to minimize barriers that slow the deployment of advance telecommunications technologies, such as “Voice over Internet Protocol,” and other technological breakthroughs.

“The future of advanced technologies is at our doorstep, and to the extent that the committee can encourage the deployment of innovative technologies, future generations of Tennesseans will be the direct beneficiaries,” added Tate.

The Joint Conference, which is comprised of commissioners from various state public utility commissions and the FCC, assists the FCC in its reports to Congress on the deployment of advanced telecommunications services, holds field hearings across the country, and conducts summits to determine how to increase the deployment of advanced telecommunications to under-served communities.

Tate was appointed to the TRA in February of 2002 and became Chairman on July 1, 2003. Her professional memberships include the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), Natural Gas and Consumer Affairs Committees, and the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

For information about the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, visit [www.state.tn.us/tra](http://www.state.tn.us/tra).

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